

Meeting Date: March 9, 2007

Agenda Item No. 18

Agenda Item: Wolf Update

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Steve Nadeau

Background:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a delisting rule for wolves on February 7, 2007. The Department has been planning what wolf management as a big game animal will look like and how we will proceed hunting wolves. Legislation was drafted to allow for selling of wolf tags once wolves are delisted. A public survey regarding wolf management has been drafted. Also, a summary of this year's final wolf population estimates and distribution map will be provided.

Policy issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

Public information and involvement in our planning process will be discussed. Staff has been working extensively with various agencies, the legislature, press, and the public over delisting, management planning, and the wolf tag issue, as well as daily wolf management issues.

Justification:

Our level of management planning and involvement has increased over the last year under the new 10(j) rule and in preparation for delisting, and will continue to do so. The transition to state management as a big game animal has been ongoing since 2002.

Action Requested:

None. Information update presentation.

Staff Recommendations:

None.